

1 **BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD**

2 In the Matter of

3 **RONALD F. HILDING, M.D.,**

4 Holder of License No. **6043**
5 For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine
6 In the State of Arizona.

Board Case No. MD-08A-6043-MDX

**FINDINGS OF FACT,
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER**
(License Revocation)

7 On October 8th and 9th, 2008, this matter came before the Arizona Medical Board
8 ("Board") for oral argument and consideration of the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)
9 Brian Brendan Tully's proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and
10 Recommended Order. Ronald Hilding M.D., ("Respondent") was notified but did not
11 appear before the Board, Special Counsel Marki Stewart represented the State. Chris
12 Munns, Assistant Attorney General with the Solicitor General's Section of the attorney
13 General's Office, was present and available to provide independent legal advice to the
14 Board.

15 The Board, having considered the ALJ's decision and the entire record in this
16 matter, hereby issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

17 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 18 1. The Arizona Medical Board ("Board") is the authority for licensing and regulating
19 the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
20 2. Ronald F. Hilding, M.D. ("Respondent") is the holder of License No. 6043 for the
21 practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
22 3. Respondent practiced psychiatry.
23 4. The Board issued a Complaint and Notice of Hearing in Docket No. 08A-6043-
24 MDX alleging unprofessional conduct by Respondent. The Complaint and Notice
25 of Hearing was mailed to Respondent at his address of record with the Board.
5. The Board referred the Complaint to the Office of Administrative Hearings, an
independent agency, for an evidentiary hearing.

- 1 6. The commencement of the hearing was delayed 15 minutes to allow for the late
2 arrival of Respondent or an attorney authorized to represent him. After the delay
3 the Administrative Law Judge conducted the hearing in Respondent's absence.
- 4 7. On or about February 18, 2003, the Board, through its Executive Director, issued
5 Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order for Decree of Censure against
6 Respondent for unprofessional conduct in Case Nos. 00-0438, 98-0480, and 94-
7 0584. The Board Ordered that Respondent be issued a Decree of Censure, that
8 he reimburse the Board for its costs in bringing the case to formal hearing, that he
9 participate, at his sole expense, in a Physician Assessment and Clinical Education
10 Program ("PACE") within one year of the Order, that he successfully complete any
11 recommendations resulting from the PACE evaluation, and periodic and random
12 chart reviews at Respondent's sole expense.
- 13 8. On March 10, 2004, the Board considered Respondent's request for a modification
14 of the prior Order requiring him to undergo the PACE evaluation. Respondent
15 stated that it would be a financial hardship for him to undergo the evaluation.
- 16 9. At the March 10, 2004 Board meeting, the Board voted to deny Respondent's
17 request to modify its prior Order.
- 18 10. On March 25, 2004, Respondent violated the Board's prior Order by not timely
19 completing the PACE evaluation. Respondent had not paid the formal hearing
20 costs of \$2,249.20.
- 21 11. Respondent did complete the two-day PACE Phase I assessment on May 23-24,
22 2005 at the University of California, San Diego.
- 23 12. On the first day of Phase I testing, Respondent arrived one and a half hours late.
24 On the second day he was thirty minutes late.
- 25 13. The assessment covered the following areas: Mock Patient History and Physical;
Computer Delivered Tests – PRIUM; Transaction Stimulated Recall (TSR)
Interview; Cognitive Screening Test; Multiple Choice Exam- Ethics and
Communication; Psychiatry Clinical Subject Exam; Mechanisms of Disease;
Pharmacotherapeutics with Behavioral Health Examination; Oral Competency
Exam-Psychiatry; Chart Review; and Exit Interview.

- 1 14. On or about March 9, 2006, a Summary Report PACE Phase I Assessment
2 ("Summary Report") on Dr. Ronald Hilding was sent to Board staff. The Summary
3 Report was authored by William A. Norcross, M.D., Professor of Clinical Family
4 Medicine and Director of UCSD PACE Program, and Carole Sussman, Ph.D.,
5 Associate Director, C.O.O. UCSD PACE Program.
- 6 15. The Summary Report recommended that "a full neuropsychological evaluation
7 was indicated before commencing with Phase II." A neuropsychological evaluation
8 was scheduled for Respondent, but he failed to show up for the appointment.
- 9 16. The Summary Report opined that Respondent "lacks the knowledge and clinical
10 judgment necessary to avoid potentially serious errors in patient management and
11 subsequent care."
- 12 17. The Summary Report also concluded that "(t)he deficiencies documented during
13 [Respondent's] two-day Phase-1 PACE Assessment, if applied in the real world of
14 medical practice, may have resulted in patient harm."
- 15 18. The Board issued a Notice of Hearing in this matter advising Respondent of the
16 time, date, and location of the formal hearing before the Office of Administrative
17 Hearings. The Notice of Hearing was sent to Respondent at his address of record
18 with the Board.
- 19 19. The commencement of the scheduled hearing was delayed 15 minutes to allow for
20 the late arrival of Respondent or an attorney authorized to represent him. After the
21 delay the Administrative Law Judge conducted the hearing in Respondent's
22 absence.
- 23 20. Respondent failed to complete the full PACE evaluation as ordered by the Board.
- 24 21. Respondent is medically incompetent. He poses a danger to the public if permitted
25 to continue practicing medicine.

Prior Board History

- 22 22. On December 20, 1983, the Board issued Respondent a Letter of Concern for his
23 inappropriate prescribing and mismanagement of a patient.

- 1 23. On July 23, 1991, the Board granted Respondent's Request for Inactive Status
2 with Cause and Order Granting Inactive Status because of Respondent's
3 substance abuse. Respondent's license was reactivated on October 15, 1993.
- 4 24. On December 1, 1993, the Board and Respondent entered into a Stipulation and
5 Order. Respondent was required to continue in therapy with quarterly reports to
6 the Board and a chart survey for one year. This Consent Agreement was
7 superseded by the Consent Agreement dated November 22, 1995.
- 8 25. On November 22, 1995, the Board and Respondent entered into another
9 Stipulation and Order. Respondent was to take focused education in prescribing
10 psychoactive substances and hire a practice management consultant. The
11 Consent Agreement terminated on July 25, 1997.

12 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 13 1. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent and the subject matter in this case.
- 14 2. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1092.07(G) (2), the Board has the burden of proof in this
15 matter. The standard of proof is preponderance of the evidence.
- 16 3. The conduct and circumstances described in the above Findings constitute
17 unprofessional conduct by Respondent, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(27) (r).
- 18 4. The conduct and circumstances described in the above Findings demonstrate that
19 Respondent is medically incompetent, Pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-1451(A) and (J),
20 and 32-1401(18).

21 ORDER

22 Based on the foregoing, the Board revokes License No. 6043 for the practice of
23 allopathic medicine previously issued to Ronald F. Hilding.

24 Respondent shall reimburse costs of the administrative hearing to the Board
25 pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-1451(M) and 41-1007.

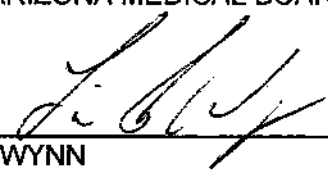
1 **RIGHT TO PETITION FOR REHEARING OR REVIEW**

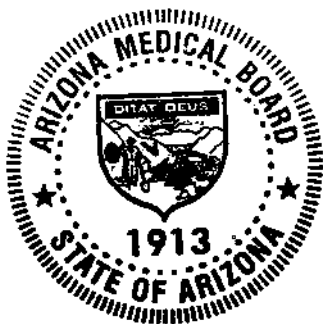
2 Respondent is hereby notified that he has the right to petition for a rehearing or review.
3 The petition for rehearing or review must be filed with the Board's Executive Director within thirty
4 (30) days after service of this Order. A.R.S. § 41-1092.09(B). The petition for rehearing or review
5 must set forth legally sufficient reasons for granting a rehearing or review. A.A.C. R4-16-103.
6 Service of this order is effective five (5) days after date of mailing. A.R.S. § 41-1092.09(C). If a
7 petition for rehearing or review is not filed, the Board's Order becomes effective thirty-five (35)
8 days after it is mailed to Respondent.

9 Respondent is further notified that the filing of a motion for rehearing or review is required
10 to preserve any rights of appeal to the Superior Court.

11 DATED this 9th day of October, 2008.

12
13 THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

14
15 By 
16 LISA WYNN
17 Executive Director



1 ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed this
2 1st day of October, 2008 with:

3 Arizona Medical Board
4 9545 East Doubletree Ranch Road
5 Scottsdale, Arizona 85258

6 Executed copy of the foregoing
7 mailed by U.S. Mail this
8 1st day of October, 2008, to:

9 Ronald F. Hilding, M.D.
10 Address of Record
11 Respondent

12 Marki Stewart, Esq.
13 Mariscal, Weeks, McIntyre & Friedlander, P.A.
14 Suite 200
15 2901 N. Central Ave.
16 Phoenix, AZ 85012
17 Special Counsel for the State of Arizona

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